

Professionally, Derrick continued to pursue his passion for politics, working up and down the east coast, from Alabama to Maryland to New York to Washington, D.C. He worked across the political spectrum, for campaigns, as a lobbyist and in this Congressional office. Derrick's impressive resume includes: co-founding the lobbying firm Epps, Richardson and Associates; serving as the first African American Director of Public Policy for the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce; serving as the Senior Director for State and Regional affairs for the Center for American Progress in Washington, D.C.; serving as the Legislative Budget Director for the New York City Council; serving as the Director of Domestic Policy for the Lutheran Church in America; and serving as the Manager of Government Relations for Van Scoyoc Associates in Washington, D.C.

Derrick joined our office in 2016 and served as District Press Secretary, devoting his considerable talents to addressing the challenges faced by Alabama's 7th Congressional District of Alabama, including unemployment, career and college readiness, economic viability and civil rights.

Derrick then became the inaugural Executive Director of the Alabama Alliance of the Boys and Girls Club. There, he brought his same fierce commitment to justice and equal opportunity, lending his ample professional experience to expanding and uplifting the work of the Boys and Girls Club.

Over the years, Derrick's many accomplishments have been recognized with numerous awards, including: The Veteran of Influence Award from the Birmingham Business Journal; the Maryland Gubernatorial Proclamation for Outstanding Public Service; and the Alabama Legislative Black Caucus Award for Trailblazer and Successful Lobbyist.

Derrick leaves behind his mother, Lovenia Hart, his wife, State Representative Merika Coleman; his children, Jonathan, Dara Elisa, Elexia and Xaviar; his brothers, Everett Howard and Gerald (Grace) Richardson; a very devoted cousin/little brother, Tionne Birdsong; three nieces; two nephews; one very devoted sister/cousin, Barbara Birdsong; and a host of cousins, friends, frat brothers and church family. On a personal note, Derrick was a beloved member of our congressional staff. I was honored that Derrick joined us on our journey to move Alabama's 7th District forward. He was an outstanding press secretary who used his talents and strong work ethic to passionately advocate for the people of his home district. I am forever grateful that Derrick played such a special role in our journey. We will certainly miss his kindness, his gentle spirit, his sharp wit and his compassionate heart; but we know that Derrick's legacy will live on through the many lives he has impacted. May we honor Derrick's life by recommitting ourselves to the causes he cared about and the community he loved so much. Rest in peace, Derrick. Always Team Sewell.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the exemplary life of Derrick Lamar Richardson, a true servant leader who led by example.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE WASHINGTON PERRY'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. George Washington Perry and wish him a very happy 100th birthday.

The advent of World War II was a time that not only shaped the course of our country but the lives of many Americans, including Mr. Perry. He was one of the many patriots who felt compelled to serve our great country and enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1939 before joining the Air National Guard and later the U.S. Air Force.

For over a quarter century, Mr. Perry assisted in various campaigns throughout the continental United States, Germany, France, Italy, and even Antarctica. He showed endless bravery and courage in his pursuit of peace across the globe.

After completing active duty, he returned to his wife Dorothy and son Richard and began a successful career in engineering with Cannon Mills. Mr. Perry remained an active community leader and has been involved in the Masonic Brotherhood, St. John's Reformed Church, and Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Perry was born on February 22, 1920 and represents the best our nation has to offer. I am proud to join our community today in honoring all that he has accomplished over the last 100 years.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in thanking Mr. George Washington Perry for his service and wishing him a happy 100th birthday.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF FIONA HECKSCHER

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my condolences to the family and friends of Fiona Heckscher, a valued member of the Office of House Legislative Counsel, who we lost over the February recess. At just 33 years of age, Fiona was one of only four members of the prestigious tax drafting team; her skilled draftsmanship can be seen throughout the tax code. From her work on the TCJA, to her work on important initiatives in the 116th Congress such as the Economic Mobility Act, the Lower Drug Costs Now Act, and the Protecting American Lungs Act, the knowledge and creativity that Fiona brought to the tax drafting process has left a lasting impact on our nation's laws.

A graduate of Brown University and the Yale School of Law, Fiona began with the Office of House Legislative Counsel in 2014. Since that time, Members and staff alike had come to rely on Fiona's wisdom beyond her years, the depth of her knowledge of the tax code, and the patience and warmth she exuded day in and day out, no matter how stressful the job got.

Fiona was an institutionalist and deeply believed in the worth of the non-partisan work

done by the Office of the Legislative Counsel: for the members, their staff and most of all for the American people. She often said that she felt lucky to be doing work that could further bipartisan collaboration. Fiona will be remembered for her dedication to the Congress, for the passion she showed for her work, and for the kindness with which she treated others.

Fiona and her fiancé Neal Desai had scheduled their marriage to take place when Congress would be in recess for the 2020 election. Her parents, Lavinia Hall and Charles Heckscher, her brothers Alexander and Dylan, and her fiancé Neal mourn the loss of her light in their lives.

I send my deepest sympathies out to them, and to all of Fiona's close friends and colleagues, and I ask my colleagues to do the same. Please know that Fiona's good work has left a meaningful and lasting mark on the Congress, and on the country.

REMEMBERING THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the 613 Azerbaijani men, women, and children killed in Khojaly on February 25 and 26, 1992. We must never forget this tragedy and must work to prevent such atrocities from occurring again.

Since the early 1990s, Azerbaijan has been involved in a conflict with its neighbor to the West, Armenia. The Khojaly tragedy was the single worst day in this conflict, resulting in hundreds of lives lost, families devastated, and the town destroyed. A cease-fire to the conflict was negotiated in 1994, but the conflict remains unresolved.

The U.S. and Azerbaijan established diplomatic relations in 1992, the same year as the Khojaly tragedy. Since then, Azerbaijan has been a key partner in the War on Terror, and the two nations share a Trade Relations Agreement and a Bilateral Investment Treaty. Given our deepening ties with Azerbaijan, it is important for the United States to support a peaceful settlement to the Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict.

The anniversary of this tragedy is an appropriate time to honor the victims of these atrocities and reflect on the need for all parties to work together to bring a swift end to this conflict. I urge my colleagues to join me in standing with Azerbaijanis as they commemorate this tragedy.

HONORING OUR NATION'S HEROES ON THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN FLAG RAISING AT IWO JIMA

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th Anniversary of the American flag raising at Iwo Jima and to express my gratitude to the courageous service